This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A virtual learning system adapted to provide a child with answers to at least one audible inquiry that the child provides when observing an image on a screen of a computer capable of producing sound, the system comprising:

(a) an image creation means for creating the image on the display in response to at least one audible word from the child, comprising:

(1) a computer having an output terminal provided with a screen;

(2) an electronic dictionary associated with the computer in which is digitally stored the phonetic sounds of words that identify objects and the letters of the alphabet that spell the words, including an object in response to the at least one audible word; said electronics dictionary being contained in software downloaded into the memory of the computer;

(3) an image library associated with the computer in which is digitally stored images of object_s_, including an image of said object _in response the at least one audible word_; and

(4) means including a voice recognition unit in the input of said computer, the unit acting to recognize the distinctive sound pattern of the child speaking into the unit and to condition the electronic dictionary to respond to the pattern, whereby when the child speaks into the unit a specific word included in the dictionary identifying a particular object, the output of the unit is digitized and the computer then acts to scan the dictionary to find the corresponding phonetic sounds digitally stored therein, and when a match is found to present on the screen the letters which the specific word and the image of the object identified thereby;

(b) an electronic library associated with the computer in which is digitally stored answers to commonly asked inquiries resulting from observation of images stored in said image library; and

(c) wherein said voice recognition unit recognizes distinct words and the sequence pattern of the at least one audible inquiry, thereby prompting the computer to scan the _electronic_ library to find at least one answer most closely

related to the at least one audible inquiry and, when a match is found, presents said at least one answer to the child.

Claim 18 (Original): The virtual learning system of claim 17, wherein said answer is presented audibly by the computer.

Claim 19 (Original): The virtual learning system of claim 17, wherein said answer is presented visually by the computer on the screen.

Claim 20 (Original): The virtual learning system of claim 17, wherein a virtual image of a human appears on the screen and is synchronized with the presentation of the answer.

Claim 21 (Original): The virtual learning system of claim 20, wherein the human is a teacher.

Claim 22 (Original): The virtual learning system of claim 21, wherein said teacher appears in a classroom setting.